

California State Journal of Medicine.

OWNED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
Medical Society of the State of California

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

AUGUST, 1904.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The officers elected at the last meeting of the A. M. A. were the following: President, Lewis S. McMurtry, Kentucky; Vice-Presidents, Edward Jackson, James Hall Bell, F. C. Shattuck, B. C. Pennington; Secretary, George H. Simmons; Treasurer, Frank Billings; Trustees, T. J. Happel, W. W. Grant, Philip Marvel. The orations are to be delivered by the following gentlemen: "Medicine," Charles G. Stockton; "Surgery," John Collins Warren; "State Medicine," George Blumer. The Association will be presided over during the coming year by Dr. Musser, the retiring president, and Dr. McMurtry will not take charge until the next session, at Portland. Dr. McMurtry has taken an active interest in the Association for many years, and both the Association and Dr. McMurtry are to be congratulated upon the choice of the House of Delegates.

While presidents come and presidents go, the trustees stay on forever, or nearly so. It is the Trustees who are really the American Medical Association, for everything that is done at a meeting must be again enacted by the Trustees, in Illinois, in order for it to be a legally accomplished fact. And also it is the Trustees who guide—and should guard—the business of the association, including the Journal, which is its principal business. T. J. Happel, W. W. Grant, Philip Marvel, E. E. Montgomery, H. L. E. Johnson, A. L. Wright, William H. Welch, Miles Porter and M. L. Harris are the gentlemen who compose the Board of Trustees. Gentlemen, the conduct of

"the greatest advertising medium for proprietary medicines in this country"—the *Journal of the American Medical Association*—is in your hands. What are you going to do with it? Are you going to continue the policy of "Dollars; dirty or clean; DOLLARS"? Or are you going to remember that the Journal of the Association is the property of the members, and that at least some of these members have a sort of shamefaced idea that honesty, right, truth, decency and professional ethics demand a modicum of consideration? Are you going to comfortably forget that the Association has unanimously, and amid great applause, placed itself on record as supporting the fact that "It is equally derogatory to professional character for physicians to dispense or promote the use of secret remedies"? Remember that portion of the phrase, "promote the use of secret remedies"; think about it; let it sink into your mind. It is not right, nor ethical, and it is derogatory to professional character, to do a certain thing. What thing? "To promote the use of secret remedies." When you print the false and fictitious statements of manufacturers of "secret remedies" and distribute to the profession of this country over 30,000 copies of such statements each week, is that "promoting the use of secret remedies," or is it not? Is a net income of \$40,000 a year—which does nobody any good—worth the price of shame which every self-respecting member of the Association must pay for it? Gentlemen, the issue is clearly up to you.

(N. B.—Please do not abuse the editor of the *Journal A. M. A.* He is not responsible for the business management of the *Journal*. And besides, he says he doesn't know which advertisements are unethical.)

County societies should at once undertake the work of getting rid of the illegal practitioners within their territory. The law has now been clearly defined; a goodly number of convictions have been secured by the Board of Examiners, establishing precedents covering practically every point; the method to be followed in securing and presenting evidence has been well established. It now remains but to make effective, in the highest manner possible, the law of the state. The public should not be, for a day longer than is absolutely necessary, preyed upon by the quack and the faker. It is money in the pocket of the physician to allow this sort of thing to go on, for the quacks do more harm than good, and eventually the sufferer must go to the physician for relief. But the medical profession is built upon the rock of self-sacrifice; its every effort for generation after generation has been to prevent sickness; to do away with the necessity of calling upon the doctor for treatment by preventing the advent